

REMARKS

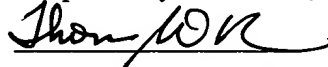
Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26 and 28. The applicant has canceled these claims and as such the rejection of these claims should be considered moot.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner has allowed claims 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25 and 27, and as such these claims should now be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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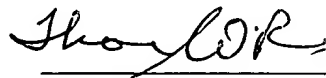
(631) 249-7500

Application No. 09/976,838



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing Response was mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 this 17th day of August, 2006


Thomas A. O'Rourke